

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00567 010102Z  
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 CG-00  
DOTE-00 OIC-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05  
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-05 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 OES-06 SS-15  
SP-02 INT-05 FEA-01 /128 W  
-----010114 081811/67

O R 010001Z MAR 77  
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2566  
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 567

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: UN, SENV, SF  
SUBJECT: WATER CONFERENCE: SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION

REF: A) USUN 260 B) USUN 60 C) USUN 351

1. SUMMARY: PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS MAY FIELD A FOUR MAN DELEGATION AT THE WORLD WATER CONFERENCE IN ARGENTINA--UNLESS THEY CAN BE CONVINCED OTHERWISE. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER NON-ATTENDANCE IF THEY WERE APPROACHED AND PERSUADED THAT THEIR PRESENCE WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO THEM AND POISONOUS TO THE CONFERENCE ATMOSPHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. RECENT DISCUSSIONS IN NEW YORK WITH A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS AND UN SECRETARIAT PEOPLE STRONGLY INDICATE THEIR PRESENCE WOULD BE DISRUPTIVE. MOST RECENTLY AT A U.S.-HOSTED ECOSOC LUNCHEON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, MINISTER COUNSELLOR KITCHEN WAS APPROACHED BY VARIOUS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USUN N 00567 010102Z

DELS, INCLUDING THENIGERIANS, SUDAN, NETHERLANDS, GHANA, AND THE SOVIET UNION, ALL EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA WILL TURN THE CONFERENCE INTO A POLITICAL FREE-FOR-A-ALL. MANY OF THESE COUNTRIES ARE PLANNING TO BEEF UP THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THEIR DELEGATIONS IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED PLETHORA OF POLITICAL ISSUES. WITH SOUTH

AFRICA PRESENT, AN ENHANCED PROBABILITY THAT THE  
ZIONISM-RACISM AND OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ISSUES WILL  
BE DISCUSSED AND INCLUDED IN DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY EMERGE  
FROM THE CONFERENCE, AND THAT THE QUESTION OF SOUTH  
AFRICAN EXCLUSION WILL BE RAISED EARLY IN THE PRO-  
CEEDINGS. (OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS NEW ZEALAND,  
AUSTRALIA, UK, SWEDEN HAVE ALL EXPRESSED SIMILAR  
CONCERN ON OTHER OCCASIONS.) WHILE CERTAIN POLITICAL  
ISSUES (SUCH AS THE FARAKKA BARRAGE) WILL PROBABLY  
BE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES,  
OTHER PRIMARILY BILATERAL ISSUES WILL BE MORE LIKELY  
TO SURFACE IN A MORE POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE.  
(SEE REFTEL B.) OBVIOUSLY THERE CAN BE NO CERTAINTY  
THAT THE ABOVE ISSUES WILL NOT APPEAR EVEN IF  
SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT COME; HOWEVER, THE LIKELIHOOD IS  
LESS, AND THE DEGREE TO WHICH THESE ISSUES PLAY AN  
IMPORTANT PART IN THE CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS WOULD  
PROBABLY BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED.

3. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA (KAMARA OF ZAMBIA) PROBABLY WILL BE ATTENDING  
THE CONFERENCE (SEE REFTEL C), AND WOULD MAKE  
EFFECTIVE USE OF THE CONFERENCE AND SAG ATTENDANCE  
TO PRESS SOUTHWEST AFRICA MATTERS. (SWAPO MAY ALSO ATTEND.)

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: USUN SUGGESTS THAT THE  
DEPARTMENT GIVE CONSIDERATION TO APPROACHING THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO INDICATE THAT WE HAVE  
HEARD FROM A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSING CONCERN,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USUN N 00567 010102Z

WHICH WE SHARE, THAT THE WATER CONFERENCE HAS A HIGH  
PROBABILITY OF DEGENERATING INTO A VERY POLITICALIZED  
CONFERENCE SHOULD THE SAG DECIDE TO MAKE IT ITS FIRST  
APPEARANCE AT A UN SPONSORED CONFERENCE IN SEVERAL  
YEARS. WE MIGHT NOTE TO THE SAG THAT WHILE THIS IS  
IN SOME DEGREE A 'TECHNICAL CONFERENCE' ITS MAIN  
PURPOSE IS TO GIVE VISIBILITY TO GLOBAL WATER RESOURCE  
PROBLEMS AND TO BRING POLICY MAKERS (NOT TECHNICIANS,)  
TOGETHER. THE CAST OF CHARACTERS WILL NOT BE PRO-  
DOMINANTLY TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS, AND THE CONFERENCE  
FOCUS WILL NOT BE ON RESOLVING TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.  
IN SUM, THE WATER CONFERENCE IS MORE A KIN TO THE  
HABITAT CONFERENCE IN DEALING IN GENERAL TERMS WITH  
A MAJOR WORLD PROBLEM, RATHER THAN AN IN-DEPTH  
DETAILED CONSIDERATION OF SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS AS  
IS THE CASE WITH THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. MOREOVER,  
SAG SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD  
CONFERENCE WILL IN FACT PERMIT SAG PARTICIPATION I.E.,  
GA ACT OF EXCLUSION WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE REPEATED.

BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WATER, CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, MEETING DELEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 01-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977USUNN00567  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770069-0292  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** USUN NEW YORK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197703103/aaaadnkq.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 145988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 USUN NEW YORK 260, 77 USUN NEW YORK 60, 77 USUN NEW YORK 351  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2946156  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WATER CONFERENCE: SOUTH AFRICAN PARTICIPATION  
**TAGS:** SENV, SF, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/145988ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009